



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Friday, March 14, 2003**

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RAYMOND MAN GUILTY OF MAILING THREATS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire Tom Colantuono announced that Richard Irving, 37, of Raymond, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty today in the United States District Court, Concord, New Hampshire, to two counts of mailing threatening communications. The charges arose from mailings Irving made to two New Hampshire businesses in December 2002.

The envelopes mailed to the New Hampshire businesses, Pitkin's Antiques, Raymond, New Hampshire, and the Penang & Tokyo Restaurant, Exeter, New Hampshire, each contained a smaller white envelope with the word "Anthrax" typewritten on it. Inside the smaller envelope was a powder-like substance. HAZ-MAT teams for each of the localities responded to take control of the envelope and powder. Testing of the material indicated it was negative for anthrax and did not contain any live organism.

Irving pleaded guilty to violating 18 U.S.C. § 876. Each violation of the statute is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. A sentencing hearing will be held on June 12, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. in the United States District Court.

U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono wished to express his appreciation to the Raymond Police Department and the Exeter Police Department for their assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the investigation of this matter. U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Threats such as those prosecuted in this case pose a potential harm to the public, even when the substances prove to be harmless. The fear created and the costs relating to the HAZ-MAT response teams are significant, and my office will seek restitution from the defendant relating to those HAZ-MAT costs." This case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.